

Specifically, as shown in Fig. 7, in step 103, when it is determined that the travel restriction release switches 12, 13 are turned off, in the following step 105, it is determined whether a predetermined period (for example, 10 seconds) has elapsed since the travel restriction release switches 12, 13 were turned off. Until after 10 seconds elapse, the program proceeds with step 102, and travel restriction release is continued.

II. Claims 1-7, 15, 16, 18 and 19 Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 15, 16, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP Publication No. 11-198745 to Wataru et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-7, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are not anticipated by Wataru. First, Wataru does not disclose an operation nullification canceller or an operation nullification cancel means "that cancels prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance if a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance," as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 15. Similarly, Wataru does not disclose "canceling prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation performed by the operator as the operator guidance if a predetermined time period has elapsed since the prohibition against the inputting of the predetermined operation preformed by the operator as the operator guidance," as recited in claim 18.

Wataru, instead, only discloses that when the release switches 12 and 13 are pressed, travel restriction (i.e. when operation cannot be performed) is released. However, in the case when the release switches cannot be pressed, e.g., right/left turns, and input operation can be interrupted, Wataru discloses a predetermined period that allows operations to be performed after the release switches are turned off. That is, the predetermined period of Wataru occurs after the release switches are initially pressed. See, e.g., Wataru, paragraph [0021] and Fig. 7.

Second, Wataru does not disclose an operation nullification device or operation nullification means that "is constructed to judge whether or not the predetermined condition

has been fulfilled, depending on the number of dummy switches included in information displayed by the display device," as recited in claim 4, and as similarly recited in claim 16. Similarly, Wataru does not disclose "judging whether or not a predetermined traveling condition related to operation of the vehicle has been fulfilled, depending on the number of dummy switches included in information displayed by the display device," as recited in claim 19. Nowhere does Wataru disclose these features.

Wataru, instead, only discloses that a speed sensor 10 that judges whether the car is running and if so, alter operation cannot be performed. See, e.g., Wataru, paragraph [0015].

Thus, claims 1, 4, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are patentable over Wataru. Further, claims 2, and 5-7, which variously depend from claims 1 and 4, are also patentable over Wataru for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 4, as well as the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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